

STATE  
LIBRARY OF N.S.W.  
NEW ISSUE 12 JUL 1985



**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

**CANBERRA**

**1984 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE  
SURVEY, AUSTRALIA**

**PRELIMINARY**

STATE LIBRARY OF N.S.W  
Offsite Storage  
TQ043686

Cat no. 6529.0  
2nd copy

**CATALOGUE NO. 6529.0**

© Commonwealth of Australia 1985

PHONE INQUIRIES	<i>for more information about these statistics</i> —contact Mr David Bennison on Canberra (062) 52 7373 or any of our State offices.
	<i>other inquiries including copies of publications</i> —contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627 or in any of our State offices.
MAIL INQUIRIES	<i>write to</i> Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.

CONTENTS

<i>Table</i>		<i>Page</i>
..	Preface	v
..	Main features	1
..	Explanatory notes	2
1	Household expenditure by household income decile group, Australia	5
2	Household characteristics by household income decile group, Australia	7
3	Household expenditure by States and Territories	8
4	Household characteristics by States and Territories	9
	<b>Appendix 1 : Sampling Error</b>	
5	Relative standard error (%): Household expenditure by household decile group, and by States, Territories and Australia	10

## **PREFACE**

This publication presents preliminary results for the full twelve months data from the 1984 Household Expenditure Survey (HES). It supersedes the preliminary publication (issued in February 1985) which presented results based on only the first six months data.

The 1984 Household Expenditure Survey is the third in a series of such surveys. The last was conducted in 1975-76. The 1984 survey is similar in content to the ones previously conducted and covers the whole of Australia (except remote and sparsely settled areas).

Special thanks are extended to the sample of households whose co-operation and high degree of response was vital to the success of the survey.

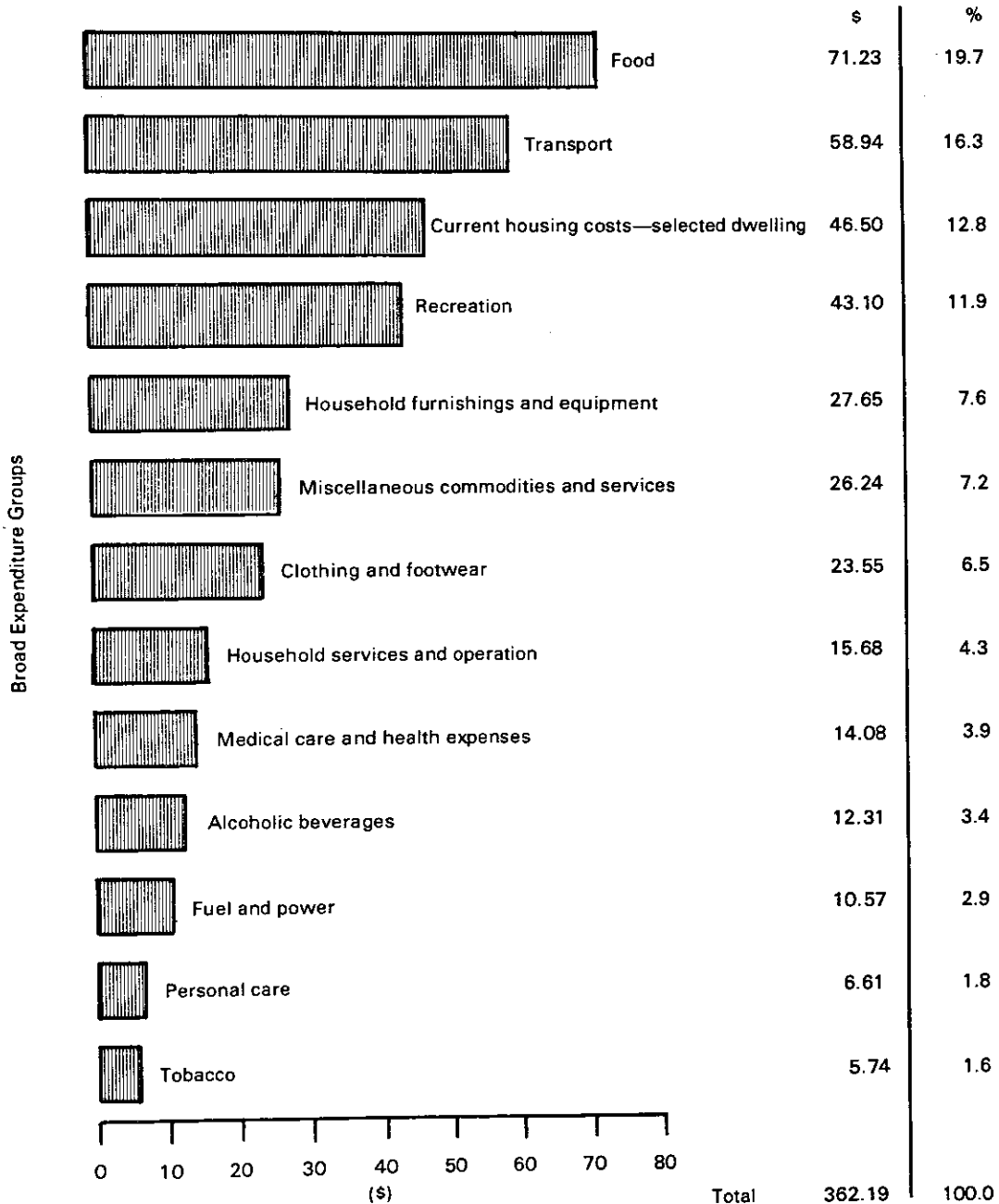
**Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Canberra A.C.T. 2600  
June 1985**

**R. J. CAMERON  
Australian Statistician**

## MAIN FEATURES

Presented below is a diagrammatical representation of average weekly household expenditure on broad groups of commodities and services for all households in Australia within the scope of the survey.

### AVERAGE WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE ON COMMODITIES AND SERVICES, 1984



## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Introduction

This publication presents preliminary results for the full twelve months data from the 1984 Household Expenditure Survey (HES). A publication (6528.0) which presented preliminary results based on the first six months data was issued in February 1985. A series of publications to be released later this year will present results in more detail.

2. The 1984 HES Information Paper (6527.0), released on 7 June 1984, was partly designed to assist users in evaluating and interpreting results arising from this survey. In addition to the Information Paper, a detailed concepts, methodology and procedures publication will complement the release of the final 1984 HES output.

3. The estimates contained in this publication are preliminary only and subject to revision at a later date.

### Scope and coverage

#### *Geographical areas*

4. The survey covers both rural and urban areas across all States and Territories (except remote and sparsely settled areas).

#### *Dwellings*

5. Only private dwellings and caravan parks were included in this survey. Private dwellings are houses, flats, home units, caravans, garages, tents and any other structures used as private places of residence at the time of the survey. Hotels, boarding houses, institutions, etc. were regarded as 'special dwellings' outside the scope of the survey.

#### *Households*

6. Information was collected on a household basis rather than for selected individuals in the population, because many items of expenditure such as food, accommodation and household goods and appliances relate to the household as a unit.

7. The following were excluded from the survey:

- (a) foreign diplomatic and foreign diplomatic staff households;
- (b) foreign defence force staff households;
- (c) visitors staying with a household for less than six weeks after the initial interview;
- (d) households with one or more usual members, who are spenders, who could not be interviewed within 14 days after the initial approach; and
- (e) households with one or more usual members, present at the initial interview, who did not intend to return before the end of the diary-keeping.

### Definitions

8. The 1984 HES is based on an acquisitions approach. This means that the expenditure relates to goods and services acquired during the reference period, whether or not those goods are paid for or consumed, e.g. goods purchased by bankcard are counted as expenditure at the time they are acquired rather than at the time the bankcard bill is paid. *Expenditure* is net of refunds or expected refunds (e.g. payments for health services are net of any refunds received or expected to be received). Information about most types of expenditure was obtained from the diary, although some infrequent items of expenditure were collected on a 'recall' or last payment basis. The length of the recall period ranged from two years for house purchases to three months for health expenses.

9. For a comprehensive list of items of expenditure collected in the 1984 HES, and the composition of a particular broad expenditure group, reference should be made to HES Commodity Code List contained in Appendix 2.0 of the 1984 Household Expenditure Survey Information Paper (6527.0).

10. *Income* was defined as gross weekly income from all sources (before deductions for income tax, superannuation, etc.) at the time of the interview. Income was collected in respect of all household members. The main components of income are:

- (a) current usual wages and salaries;
- (b) income derived from self-employment;
- (c) government direct benefits (including benefits received from an overseas government but excluding educational grants, see (e) below);
- (d) income from investments (including interest, dividends, royalties and rent); and
- (e) other regular income (including educational grants and private and government scholarships received in cash, superannuation, worker's compensation, alimony or maintenance, and any other allowances regularly received).

11. Although most information about income was obtained on a current basis some was obtained in respect of the previous financial year.

12. In general, income was regarded as all receipts which were received regularly and were of a recurring nature. Certain receipts were not considered to conform to this criterion and were therefore treated as being outside the scope of the survey. Such receipts include the following:

- (a) maturity payments on insurance policies, superannuation, etc. These lump-sum receipts were regarded as maturity of an investment rather than income;
- (b) lump-sum compensation for injury, legal damages received;
- (c) windfall gains such as gambling and lottery winnings;
- (d) lump-sum inheritances and other lump-sum receipts;
- (e) withdrawals from savings, loans obtained;
- (f) profit from buying and selling of stocks and shares, unless as a business;
- (g) value of home-produced goods where the economic activity of the household was not associated with the production of these goods; and
- (h) monetary gifts if not regularly received, and the value of non-monetary gifts from another household.

13. The income data collected in the survey are only those types included in the definitions and the exclusions noted above indicate that the survey does not collect the total sources of all 'income'. The survey therefore does not purport to be an income-expenditure balance sheet. The collection of income data in the survey is primarily undertaken to allow households to be classified into groups for expenditure analysis and not for income-expenditure analysis. *It is not expected that income and expenditure will balance either for an individual household or even when averaged over a group of households. The difference between expenditure and income is not necessarily a measure of savings or dis-savings.*

14. A *household* is defined as a group of people who live together (in a single dwelling) as a single unit in the sense that they have common housekeeping arrangements; that is, they have some common provision for food and other essentials of living. A person, or persons, living in the same dwelling but having separate catering arrangements constitute a separate household.

15. The *head of a household* is taken to be that person nominated by the member(s) of the household as the 'head'.

#### Reliability of the estimates

The estimates provided in this publication are subject to two types of error.

#### Sampling error

16. This is the difference which would be expected between the estimates and the corresponding figure that would have been obtained from a collection based on the

whole population, using the same questionnaires and procedures. One measure of the sampling error for a given estimate is provided by the standard error percentage of the estimate. Appendix 1 contains a more comprehensive discussion of sampling errors as well as giving details of the standard error percentages for selected estimates in this publication.

#### Non-sampling error

17. This type of error can occur whether the estimates are derived from a sample or from a complete collection, and is usually referred to as non-sampling error. Three major sources of non-sampling error are:

- (a) inability, for a number of reasons, to obtain comprehensive data from all households included in the sample. These 'so-called' non-response errors arise because of differences which may have existed between the characteristics and patterns of expenditure and income between respondent and non-respondent households;
- (b) errors in reporting on the part of both respondents and interviewers. These reporting errors may arise through inappropriate wording of questions, misunderstanding of what data are required, inability or unwillingness to provide accurate information and mistakes in answers to questions; and
- (c) errors arising during processing of the survey data. These processing errors may arise through mistakes in coding and data recording as well as errors arising from incorrect classifications of individual payments to some of the more detailed expenditure categories.

18. Non-sampling errors are difficult to measure in any collection. However, every effort was made to minimise these errors in the Household Expenditure Survey. In particular the effect of the reporting and processing errors described above were minimised by careful questionnaire design, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, asking respondents to refer to records whenever possible and extensive editing and quality control checking at all stages of data processing.

19. The error due to incomplete response was minimised by call-backs to all initial non-respondent households in order to explain the importance of their co-operation to the project and by adjustment to the weights (the factors used to expand the sample data to obtain population estimates) allocated to the respondent households in order to allow for households with similar characteristics from whom comprehensive data was not obtained.

20. Because of the extended collection period of the survey, changes in money values and changes in the relative prices of goods and services during the period have some implications for the interpretation of the results. The reference periods of data items differed, first, because households were approached at different dates



over the duration of the survey and, second, because data items were obtained in respect of varying reference periods (e.g. medical expenses in respect of the previous 3 months, purchase of motor vehicles in the previous 12 months). These factors should be borne in mind in interpretation of results.

#### **Related publications**

21. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available on request:

*Household Expenditure Survey, 1974-75, Bulletins 1-8* (6507.0-6514.0)

*Household Expenditure Survey, 1975-76, Bulletins 1-4* (6516.0-6519.0)

*Information Paper, 1984 Household Expenditure Survey* (6527.0)

*1984 Household Expenditure Survey, Australia (January to June 1984), Preliminary* (6528.0)

*Income and Housing Survey, 1981-82* (6524.0-6526.0)

*Social Indicators No. 4, 1984* (4101.0) (\$21.50, \$25.50 incl. postage)

*Australian Families, 1982* (4408.0) (\$1.50, \$2.20 incl. postage)

*Consumer Price Index* (6401.0)

22. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

23. In addition to the tables in this publication, other tabulations are being produced to assist in preparations for the Tax Summit. Any inquiries about additional tabulations should be addressed to Mr David Bennison on (062) 52 7373.

#### **Symbols and other usages**

- .. not applicable
- \* subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes. See paragraph 16 above.

24. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals. Published percentages are calculated prior to rounding of the figures and therefore some discrepancy may exist between these percentages and those that could be calculated from the rounded figures.



**TABLE 1 : 1984 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY: HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME DECILE GROUP, AUSTRALIA(a)**

Broad Expenditure Group(b)		Average Weekly Household Gross Income Distribution(\$)										All households
		Lowest 10%	Second decile group	Third decile group	Fourth decile group	Fifth decile group	Sixth decile group	Seventh decile group	Eighth decile group	Ninth decile group	Highest 10%	
Average weekly household expenditure (by all households) (\$)(c)												
<b>Commodity or service</b>												
1-6	Current housing costs (selected dwelling)	24.28	27.63	29.67	40.08	47.82	52.55	54.42	56.01	62.03	70.76	46.50
7-9	Fuel and power	6.47	8.11	9.43	9.65	10.10	10.90	11.48	11.52	12.61	15.46	10.57
10-47	Food	33.25	44.15	55.03	60.40	65.25	73.00	80.78	83.11	94.74	123.00	71.23
48-51	Alcoholic beverages	3.52	4.55	6.67	9.45	9.96	12.96	14.52	16.58	18.81	26.23	12.31
52	Tobacco	2.63	3.70	4.99	5.97	5.82	6.61	6.54	6.53	7.07	7.49	5.74
53-58	Clothing and footwear	7.20	10.65	14.38	16.43	18.90	21.01	24.35	27.38	41.78	53.79	23.55
59-63	Household furnishings and equipment	8.68	14.11	18.30	20.80	22.29	29.35	34.80	33.83	43.56	50.94	27.65
64-69	Household services and operation	8.56	10.53	12.85	13.37	14.29	15.35	16.40	17.82	20.93	26.86	15.68
70-73	Medical care and health expenses	5.89	6.54	8.58	12.35	13.66	14.89	15.45	17.94	21.12	24.50	14.08
74-80	Transport	14.18	25.91	37.29	45.51	52.73	59.35	67.69	76.60	92.58	118.14	58.94
81-88	Recreation	14.97	18.42	25.62	28.60	34.78	44.77	48.29	55.01	63.94	97.15	43.10
89-90	Personal care	2.58	3.80	4.29	5.30	5.50	6.49	6.97	8.58	9.86	12.82	6.61
91-95	Miscellaneous commodities and services	9.10	10.97	11.91	20.45	23.90	21.60	32.01	32.95	37.66	62.21	26.24
1-95	<b>Total commodity or service expenditure</b>	<b>141.32</b>	<b>189.09</b>	<b>239.02</b>	<b>288.38</b>	<b>324.99</b>	<b>368.83</b>	<b>413.71</b>	<b>443.87</b>	<b>526.70</b>	<b>689.36</b>	<b>362.19</b>
<b>Selected other payments</b>												
96	Income tax	6.18	6.72	13.59	37.82	55.99	75.91	97.31	112.71	145.91	249.69	79.99
97	Mortgage payments-principal (selected dwelling)	1.89	1.46	2.22	4.53	6.36	7.14	8.13	9.25	10.80	13.38	6.51
98	Other capital housing costs	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	18.21
99	Superannuation and life insurance	1.01	1.01	1.92	4.99	9.12	11.37	15.38	17.35	22.50	30.56	11.50
Proportion of total expenditure on commodities and services(%)												
<b>Commodity or service</b>												
1-6	Current housing costs (selected dwelling)	17.2	14.6	12.4	13.9	14.7	14.2	13.2	12.6	11.8	10.3	12.8
7-9	Fuel and power	4.6	4.3	3.9	3.3	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.9
10-47	Food	23.5	23.3	23.0	20.9	20.1	19.8	19.5	18.7	18.0	17.8	19.7
48-51	Alcoholic beverages	2.5	2.4	2.8	3.3	3.1	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.4
52	Tobacco	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.6
53-58	Clothing and footwear	5.1	5.6	6.0	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.9	6.2	7.9	7.8	6.5
59-63	Household furnishings and equipment	6.1	7.5	7.7	7.2	6.9	8.0	8.4	7.6	8.3	7.4	7.6
64-69	Household services and operation	6.1	5.6	5.4	4.6	4.4	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.3
70-73	Medical care and health expenses	4.2	3.5	3.6	4.3	4.2	4.0	3.7	4.0	4.0	3.6	

**TABLE 1 : 1984 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY: HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME DECILE GROUP, AUSTRALIA(a)—continued**

Broad Expenditure Group(b)		Average Weekly Household Gross Income Distribution(\$)										All house- holds
Item Code(s)	Description	Lowest 10%	Second decile group	Third decile group	Fourth decile group	Fifth decile group	Sixth decile group	Seventh decile group	Eighth decile group	Ninth decile group	Highest 10%	
Proportion of total expenditure on each commodity and service(%)												
Commodity or service												
1- 6	Current housing costs (selected dwelling)	5.2	5.9	6.4	8.7	10.2	11.3	11.9	12.1	13.2	15.1	100.0
7- 9	Fuel and power	6.1	7.6	9.0	9.2	9.5	10.3	11.0	11.0	11.8	14.5	100.0
10-47	Food	4.7	6.2	7.8	8.5	9.1	10.2	11.5	11.7	13.2	17.1	100.0
48-51	Alcoholic beverages	2.9	3.7	5.5	7.7	8.0	10.5	11.9	13.5	15.1	21.1	100.0
52	Tobacco	4.6	6.4	8.8	10.5	10.1	11.5	11.6	11.5	12.2	12.9	100.0
53-58	Clothing and footwear	3.1	4.5	6.2	7.0	8.0	8.9	10.5	11.7	17.6	22.6	100.0
59-63	Household furnishings and equipment	3.1	5.1	6.7	7.6	8.0	10.6	12.8	12.3	15.6	18.3	100.0
64-69	Household services and operation	5.4	6.7	8.3	8.6	9.0	9.8	10.6	11.4	13.2	17.0	100.0
70-73	Medical care and health expenses	4.2	4.6	6.2	8.8	9.6	10.6	11.1	12.8	14.9	17.2	100.0
74-80	Transport	2.4	4.4	6.4	7.8	8.9	10.1	11.6	13.1	15.6	19.9	100.0
81-88	Recreation	3.5	4.3	6.0	6.7	8.0	10.4	11.3	12.8	14.7	22.3	100.0
89-90	Personal care	3.9	5.7	6.5	8.1	8.3	9.8	10.7	13.1	14.8	19.2	100.0
91-95	Miscellaneous commodities and services	3.5	4.2	4.6	7.8	9.0	8.2	12.4	12.6	14.2	23.5	100.0
1-95	Total commodity or service expenditure	3.9	5.2	6.7	8.0	8.9	10.2	11.6	12.3	14.4	18.9	100.0
(a) The decile groups in this table are 10% groupings of the estimated population.												

(a) The decile groups in this table are 10% groupings of the estimated population when households are ranked in ascending order according to each household's total gross weekly income. (b) Details of the component expenditure items which comprise broad expenditure groups are given in Appendix 2.0 of the 1984 HES Information Paper (6527.0). The codes preceding the item descriptions in the table refer to medium level code numbers contained in this Appendix. (c) The average obtained when the total estimated expenditure for a particular broad expenditure group is divided by the estimated number of households within the scope of the survey in the relevant decile group.

**TABLE 2 : 1984 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY: HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME DECILE GROUP, AUSTRALIA(a)**

Household Characteristics	Average Weekly Household Gross Income Distribution(\$)										All households
	Lowest 10%	Second decile group	Third decile group	Fourth decile group	Fifth decile group	Sixth decile group	Seventh decile group	Eighth decile group	Ninth decile group	Highest 10%	
Average weekly household income \$(b)	84.87	146.57	198.09	277.11	348.86	426.45	516.39	618.35	756.57	1,149.17	451.48
Average weekly per capita income \$(c)	65.17	72.05	75.58	101.06	115.54	137.92	161.14	193.16	228.18	301.06	159.27
Average weekly per capita expenditure \$(c)	108.51	92.95	91.20	105.17	107.63	119.28	129.10	138.66	158.86	180.60	127.77
Income range within decile group:											
Lower bound	\$ 0	113	171	235	314	387	471	564	676	860	..
Upper bound	\$ 112	170	234	313	386	470	563	675	859	..	..
Proportion of total income in each decile group being:											
Wages and salaries	% 2.1	4.0	12.3	57.2	72.8	76.6	82.5	83.7	84.7	77.6	71.8
Own business	% 2.8	4.9	9.5	9.7	7.7	8.5	6.5	6.0	6.2	12.4	8.4
Government benefits	% 85.7	79.3	59.7	19.8	9.7	7.2	4.9	3.6	2.4	1.6	11.3
Other	% 9.5	11.8	18.5	13.3	9.8	7.8	6.2	6.7	6.7	8.4	8.6
<b>Total</b>	% 100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average age of household head(years)(d)	62.4	57.2	53.8	45.3	42.3	41.8	40.5	41.3	42.0	44.1	47.1
Average number of persons per household:											
Under 18 years	No. 0.14	0.39	0.69	0.79	1.01	0.98	0.95	0.83	0.75	0.73	0.73
18 to 64 years	No. 0.60	0.93	1.31	1.73	1.86	1.98	2.16	2.28	2.48	3.01	1.83
65 years and over	No. 0.56	0.71	0.62	0.22	0.15	0.13	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.07	0.27
<b>Total</b>	No. 1.30	2.03	2.62	2.74	3.02	3.09	3.20	3.20	3.32	3.82	2.83
Proportion of households in decile group with nature of housing occupancy being:											
Owned outright	% 59.1	55.3	54.7	38.8	30.1	30.6	27.6	30.9	32.2	35.1	39.4
Being bought	% 7.2	10.7	15.3	26.1	36.4	39.3	44.9	44.8	48.7	46.6	32.0
Renting-government	% 9.8	11.1	8.7	5.6	7.2	4.6	3.1	3.3	2.6	0.9	5.7
Renting-private	% 16.7	19.3	17.4	25.3	23.0	22.7	21.5	19.3	14.2	15.8	19.5
Occupied rent free	% 7.2	3.6	3.9	4.2	3.3	2.7	2.8	1.6	2.2	1.5	3.3
<b>Total</b>	% 100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average number of earners in household (number)(e)	0.20	0.21	0.43	0.91	1.11	1.30	1.55	1.78	2.04	2.48	1.20
Proportion of households in decile group with family household composition being:											
Married couple:											
—only	% 5.8	45.6	40.1	24.7	18.2	17.7	21.7	24.0	25.2	16.3	23.9
—with dependent children only	% 6.4	8.1	23.3	31.7	43.1	41.9	44.2	36.8	31.3	29.2	29.6
—other	% 1.0	1.9	4.4	8.3	8.3	11.9	13.7	19.6	28.3	39.4	13.7
Single parent one family household only	% 1.7	16.8	11.0	5.0	4.3	3.6	2.6	1.7	2.2	0.8	5.0
Single person household	% 84.3	23.9	10.9	22.2	18.5	13.5	7.4	6.3	2.5	1.8	19.1
Other(f)	% 0.9	3.7	10.2	8.1	7.6	11.5	10.4	11.6	10.5	12.4	8.7
<b>Total</b>	% 100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of households in sample	886	878	893	921	948	969	1,040	996	1,003	1,013	9,547
Estimated total number in population:											
Households	(000) 501.9	501.3	507.9	505.6	499.4	502.9	509.7	506.0	498.7	498.6	5,031.9
Persons	(000) 653.6	1,019.7	1,331.2	1,386.3	1,508.0	1,554.9	1,633.4	1,619.7	1,653.5	1,903.0	14,263.4

(a) The decile groups in this table are 10% groupings of the estimated population when households are ranked in ascending order according to each household's total gross weekly income. (b) Household income is the sum of the gross weekly income of all household members. (c) See paragraph 13 of the Explanatory notes. (d) Age last birthday. (e) Persons aged 15 years and over who reported 'earned' income (i.e. income from self-employment or from part-time or full-time wage and salary employment). (f) Includes married couple and single parent families living in multiple family households.

TABLE 3: 1984 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY: HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE BY STATES AND TERRITORIES

Broad Expenditure Group(a)		State or Territory								
Item Code(s)	Description	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia
Average weekly household expenditure (by all households)(\$)(b)										
1-6	Commodity or service									
7-9	Current housing costs (selected dwelling)	52.10	45.83	43.21	36.18	41.68	38.74	67.38	60.73	46.50
10-47	Fuel and power	9.76	12.28	9.27	10.60	10.37	10.89	10.92	13.60	10.57
48-51	Food	73.14	73.28	69.35	62.33	69.31	62.62	88.64	86.27	71.23
52	Alcoholic beverages	13.20	11.03	12.22	11.54	13.25	9.42	25.02	15.05	12.31
53-58	Tobacco	5.65	6.42	4.63	5.55	6.27	5.54	9.62	4.42	5.74
59-63	Clothing and footwear	26.38	24.33	18.84	20.66	20.81	23.17	17.83	29.72	23.55
64-69	Household furnishings and equipment	28.82	27.69	23.09	29.38	28.56	23.80	37.19	35.71	27.65
70-73	Household services and operation	16.19	15.87	14.92	14.15	15.77	13.06	22.96	20.06	15.68
74-80	Medical care and health expenses	14.08	15.41	13.19	13.62	12.74	11.33	15.33	16.04	14.08
81-88	Transport	57.15	61.88	58.31	54.62	62.48	47.35	68.46	80.26	58.94
89-90	Recreation	42.23	45.90	40.51	36.34	46.54	41.11	61.06	59.90	43.10
91-95	Personal care	6.74	6.91	6.02	6.67	6.27	5.66	7.02	7.90	6.61
	Miscellaneous commodities and services	27.76	24.00	29.40	20.39	26.75	17.94	32.99	42.85	26.24
1-95	Total commodity or service expenditure	373.20	370.84	342.96	322.01	360.80	310.63	464.42	472.50	362.19
96	Selected other payments									
97	Income tax	82.28	85.22	69.32	67.43	81.82	65.96	105.97	131.19	79.99
98	Mortgage payments-principal (selected dwelling)	6.82	6.56	6.42	5.12	7.03	4.84	5.11	8.12	6.51
99	Other capital housing costs	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	18.21
	Superannuation and life insurance	10.92	12.05	11.15	10.71	11.47	10.55	19.73	23.17	11.50
Proportion of total expenditure on commodities and services(%)										
1-6	Commodity or service									
7-9	Current housing costs (selected dwelling)	14.0	12.4	12.6	11.2	11.6	12.5	14.5	12.9	12.8
10-47	Fuel and power	2.6	3.3	2.7	3.3	2.9	3.5	2.4	2.9	2.9
48-51	Food	19.6	19.8	20.2	19.4	19.2	20.2	19.1	18.3	19.7
52	Alcoholic beverages	3.5	3.0	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.0	5.4	3.2	3.4
53-58	Tobacco	1.5	1.7	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.1	0.9	1.6
59-63	Clothing and footwear	7.1	6.6	5.5	6.4	5.8	7.5	3.8	6.3	6.5
64-69	Household furnishings and equipment	7.7	7.5	6.7	9.1	7.9	7.7	8.0	7.6	7.6
70-73	Household services and operation	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.9	4.2	4.3
74-80	Medical care and health expenses	3.8	4.2	3.8	4.2	3.5	3.6	3.3	3.4	3.9
81-88	Transport	15.3	16.7	17.0	17.0	17.3	15.2	14.7	17.0	16.3
89-90	Recreation	11.3	12.4	11.8	11.3	12.9	13.2	13.1	12.7	11.9
91-95	Personal care	1.8	1.9	1.8	2.1	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.7	1.8
	Miscellaneous commodities and services	7.4	6.5	8.6	6.3	7.4	5.8	7.1	9.1	7.2
1-95	Total commodity or service expenditure	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Proportion of total expenditure on each commodity and service(%)										
1-6	Commodity or service									
7-9	Current housing costs (selected dwelling)	39.4	25.8	14.7	7.1	8.0	2.4	0.7	1.9	100.0
10-47	Fuel and power	32.4	30.4	13.8	9.1	8.8	2.9	0.5	1.9	100.0
48-51	Food	36.1	27.0	15.4	8.0	8.7	2.5	0.6	1.8	100.0
52	Alcoholic beverages	37.7	23.5	15.7	8.5	9.6	2.2	1.0	1.8	100.0
53-58	Tobacco	34.6	29.3	12.7	8.8	9.8	2.8	0.9	1.1	100.0
59-63	Clothing and footwear	39.3	27.1	12.6	8.0	7.9	2.8	0.4	1.9	100.0
64-69	Household furnishings and equipment	36.6	26.3	13.2	9.7	9.3	2.5	0.7	1.9	100.0
70-73	Household services and operation	36.2	26.5	15.0	8.2	9.0	2.4	0.8	1.9	100.0
74-80	Medical care and health expenses	35.1	28.7	14.8	8.8	8.1	2.3	0.6	1.7	100.0
81-88	Transport	34.1	27.5	15.6	8.4	9.5	2.3	0.6	2.0	100.0
89-90	Recreation	34.4	27.9	14.8	7.7	9.7	2.7	0.7	2.0	100.0
91-95	Personal care	35.8	27.4	14.4	9.2	8.5	2.4	0.5	1.8	100.0
	Miscellaneous commodities and services	37.1	24.0	17.7	7.1	9.1	2.0	0.6	2.4	100.0
1-95	Total commodity or service expenditure	36.2	26.8	14.9	8.1	8.9	2.5	0.7	1.9	100.0
Average weekly household expenditure (by contributors)(\$)(c)										
1-6	Commodity or service									
7-9	Current housing costs (selected dwelling)	53.41	46.57	44.71	36.90	43.67	39.05	69.17	61.65	47.67
10-47	Fuel and power	9.97	12.47	9.57	10.82	10.63	10.93	11.27	13.82	10.80
48-51	Food	73.14	73.28	69.46	62.39	69.31	62.67	88.64	86.27	71.25
52	Alcoholic beverages	19.62	16.83	19.24	17.61	18.90	16.18	30.69	18.88	18.56
53-58	Tobacco	12.80	13.14	10.77	12.28	13.39	12.25	15.74	10.94	12.58
59-63	Clothing and footwear	33.14	30.53	25.34	26.25	27.10	30.93	25.22	36.00	30.06
64-69	Household furnishings and equipment	37.75	36.41	30.11	38.49	35.56	32.29	50.29	43.57	36.06
70-73	Household services and operation	16.31	16.05	15.20	14.29	15.94	13.35	23.65	20.22	15.86
74-80	Medical care and health expenses	16.14	16.72	14.24	14.70	13.79	13.79	16.82	17.03	15.60
81-88	Transport	59.87	63.56	60.83	58.07	64.39	48.91	69.35	81.42	61.31
89-90	Recreation	43.40	46.73	41.39	37.16	47.55	42.72	62.36	60.89	44.10
91-95	Personal care	8.19	8.22	7.39	7.97	7.56	7.37	8.46	9.30	7.99
	Miscellaneous commodities and services	30.19	25.59	31.64	22.09	28.43	19.61	34.68	44.09	28.25
96	Selected other payments									
97	Income tax	113.37	112.96	99.73	95.60	107.85	93.25	118.02	147.61	109.23
98	Mortgage payments-principal (selected dwelling)	23.22	19.38	22.89	16.06	20.36	13.79	15.33	15.65	20.63
99	Other capital housing costs	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	49.18
	Superannuation and life insurance	20.95	21.17	19.38	20.55	20.54	20.61	28.95	30.90	20.92

(a) Details of the component expenditure items which comprise broad expenditure groups are given in Appendix 2.0 of the 1984 HES Information Paper (6527.0). The codes preceding the item descriptions in the table refer to medium level code numbers contained in this Appendix. (b) The average obtained when the total estimated expenditure for a particular broad expenditure group is divided by the estimated number of households within the scope of the survey in the relevant State or Territory. (c) The average obtained when the total estimated expenditure for a particular broad expenditure group is divided by the estimated number of households which undertook expenditure in that expenditure group.

TABLE 4: 1984 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY: HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS BY STATES AND TERRITORIES

		State or Territory								
Household Characteristics		N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia
Average weekly household income\$(a)		457.30	470.13	421.91	411.67	451.47	386.53	582.37	623.32	451.48
Average weekly per capita income\$(b)		162.12	166.11	143.82	151.57	160.35	138.19	191.96	205.55	159.27
Average weekly per capita expenditure\$(b)		132.30	131.03	116.91	118.56	128.14	111.06	153.08	155.82	127.77
Proportion of total income in each State or Territory being:										
Wages and salaries	%	71.7	72.8	69.6	70.3	71.9	65.9	85.2	83.3	71.8
Own business	%	8.6	7.5	9.8	8.3	8.8	9.8	4.5	4.2	8.4
Government benefits	%	11.6	10.1	12.2	13.6	11.0	15.4	4.5	4.7	11.3
Other	%	8.1	9.6	8.3	7.8	8.3	8.9	5.8	7.9	8.6
Total	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average age of household head (years)(c)		47.4	47.7	46.9	47.6	45.3	46.8	37.4	41.9	47.1
Average number of persons per household:										
Under 18 years	No.	0.72	0.69	0.81	0.66	0.72	0.79	0.96	0.85	0.73
18 to 64 years	No.	1.82	1.87	1.83	1.76	1.85	1.74	2.04	2.06	1.83
65 years and over	No.	0.28	0.27	0.29	0.29	0.24	0.27	0.04	0.12	0.27
Total	No.	2.82	2.83	2.93	2.72	2.82	2.80	3.03	3.03	2.83
Proportion of households in State or Territory with nature of housing occupancy being:										
Owned outright	%	40.3	41.4	42.6	37.5	33.1	36.6	10.4	16.4	39.4
Being bought	%	30.0	33.9	28.6	32.1	35.2	35.4	33.6	52.8	32.0
Renting-government	%	6.0	3.1	3.9	10.6	6.9	8.0	28.9	12.7	5.7
Renting-private	%	19.8	19.2	21.3	17.2	20.1	16.8	24.1	15.8	19.5
Occupied rent free	%	3.8	2.3	3.5	2.7	4.7	3.1	2.9	2.3	3.3
Total	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average number of earners in household (number)(d)		1.18	1.24	1.18	1.15	1.23	1.03	1.50	1.50	1.20
Proportion of households in State or Territory with family household composition being:										
Married couple:										
—only	%	23.8	23.3	24.2	24.6	26.0	25.8	15.8	17.9	23.9
—with dependent children only	%	28.0	30.7	31.9	27.0	28.9	32.1	40.7	37.8	29.6
—other	%	14.4	13.6	12.9	13.7	13.7	10.2	9.1	12.6	13.7
Single parent one family household only	%	5.7	4.1	3.9	6.1	4.3	6.5	8.1	6.7	5.0
Single person household	%	19.7	19.2	17.9	20.2	18.8	19.1	13.6	14.3	19.1
Other(e)	%	8.5	9.1	9.2	8.3	8.4	6.4	12.8	10.7	8.7
Total	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Estimated number of households in State or Territory in:										
Metropolitan areas(f)	(' 000)	1,122.6	944.0	376.2	340.4	341.1	58.2	20.2	73.2	3,275.9
Other urban areas(g)	(' 000)	516.3	282.7	322.7	70.4	82.0	61.6	5.1	..	1,340.9
Rural areas(h)	(' 000)	128.2	92.0	94.9	46.6	27.8	24.1	*	*	415.2
Number of households in sample		2,041	1,945	1,503	1,039	1,084	707	588	640	9,547
Estimated total number in population:										
Households	(' 000)	1,767.0	1,318.8	793.8	457.4	450.9	143.9	26.0	74.1	5,031.9
Persons	(' 000)	4,984.4	3,732.4	2,328.8	1,242.2	1,269.7	402.4	78.8	224.7	14,263.4

(a) Household income is the sum of the gross weekly income of all household members. (b) See paragraph 13 of the Explanatory notes. (c) Age last birthday. (d) Persons aged 15 years and over who reported 'earned' income (i.e. income from self-employment or from part-time or full-time wage and salary employment). (e) Includes married couple and single parent families living in multiple family households. (f) The six State capital city Statistical Divisions, the Darwin Statistical District and the Canberra Statistical District as delineated for purposes of the 1981 Census of Population and Housing. (g) All towns and urban centres with a population of more than 500 persons (excluding the metropolitan areas) as delineated for purposes of the 1981 Census of Population and Housing. (h) Includes all towns with a population of less than 500 persons. Remote areas with less than 0.6 dwellings per square kilometre were excluded from the survey.

## APPENDIX 1

### SAMPLING ERROR

#### Estimation Procedure

Estimates derived from the survey were obtained by using a complex estimation procedure. This procedure applies an expansion factor ('weight') to each responding household to enable the collected data to be expanded to obtain estimates for the population. The weights were determined by the household's probability of selection, with an adjustment to account for households from which information was not obtained because of a variety of factors.

#### Reliability of the estimates

Since the estimates relate to information obtained from a sample of households they are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figure that would have been produced if all households were canvassed. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*, which measures the extent to which an estimate may vary by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. The standard error can also be expressed as a percentage of the estimate, and this is known as the *relative standard error*.

The degree of the sample error associated with a sample estimate depends principally on two factors:

- (a) *sample design*. The reliability of the estimates is affected by the size of the sample (the larger the sample, the more reliable the estimates), the geographical distribution and the method of selection; and
- (b) *the variability in the frequency of reporting and in the size of the reported values*. The smaller the frequency of reporting and the more variable the values reported, the larger the relative standard error.

An example of the use of standard errors is as follows. From Table 1 it will be seen that the estimate of average weekly expenditure on 'Food' in Australia is \$71.23 with a relative standard error of 0.8%. The standard error for this estimate is therefore \$0.57. Thus, there are about 2 chances in 3 (or approximately with 67% confidence) that the true figure lies in the range \$70.66 to \$71.80 and about 19 chances in 20 (or approximately with 95% confidence) that the figure is in the range \$70.09 to \$72.37.

**TABLE 5: 1984 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY: RELATIVE STANDARD ERROR (%) : HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE BY HOUSEHOLD DECILE GROUP(a), AND BY STATES, TERRITORIES AND AUSTRALIA**

Broad Expenditure Group(b)		Decile Group (c)	State or Territory								
Item Code(s)	Description		N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia
Relative standard error (%)											
1- 6	Commodity or service										
	Current housing costs (selected dwelling)	4.6	3.4	3.5	3.8	4.4	4.3	5.0	5.3	5.2	2.0
7- 9	Fuel and power	3.2	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.9	2.9	3.4	3.7	3.6	1.2
10-47	Food	2.2	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.1	2.0	2.4	2.6	2.5	0.8
48-51	Alcoholic beverages	5.7	3.9	4.0	4.5	5.3	5.2	6.3	6.8	6.6	1.9
52	Tobacco	6.0	4.1	4.2	4.7	5.6	5.5	6.6	7.2	6.9	2.1
53-58	Clothing and footwear	6.3	4.5	4.6	5.1	5.9	5.8	6.8	7.3	7.1	2.4
59-63	Household furnishings and equipment	7.9	5.7	5.8	6.4	7.4	7.3	8.6	9.3	9.0	3.1
64-69	Household services and operation	3.8	2.7	2.7	3.0	3.5	3.5	4.1	4.4	4.3	1.5
70-73	Medical care and health expenses	4.6	3.2	3.3	3.7	4.2	4.2	5.0	5.3	5.2	1.7
74-80	Transport	5.0	3.4	3.5	3.9	4.6	4.5	5.5	6.0	5.8	1.7
81-88	Recreation	5.0	3.4	3.5	3.9	4.6	4.6	5.5	6.0	5.8	1.7
89-90	Personal care	5.6	4.0	4.1	4.5	5.2	5.1	6.1	6.6	6.3	2.2
91-95	Miscellaneous commodities and services	8.8	6.8	6.9	7.5	8.4	8.2	9.4	9.9	9.7	4.3
1-95	Total commodity or service expenditure	2.4	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.2	2.2	2.6	2.8	2.7	0.9
	Selected other payments										
96	Income tax	4.2	3.0	3.0	3.4	3.9	3.8	4.5	4.9	4.7	1.6
97	Mortgage payments—principal (selected dwelling)	10.0	6.8	7.0	7.8	9.2	9.0	11.0	11.9	11.5	3.4
98	Other capital housing costs	40.7	32.9	33.3	35.5	39.0	38.6	42.9	44.9	44.0	22.4
99	Superannuation and life insurance	6.5	4.7	4.8	5.3	6.1	6.0	7.1	7.7	7.4	2.5

(a) The decile groups in this table are 10% groupings of the estimated population when households are ranked in ascending order according to each household's total gross weekly income. (b) Details of the component expenditure items which comprise broad expenditure groups are given in Appendix 2.0 of the 1984 HES Information Paper (6527.0). The codes preceding the item descriptions in the table refer to medium level code numbers contained in this Appendix. (c) The relative standard error (%) is effectively the same for all decile groups.